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Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

MIL HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO CALL MAC MEETING AUGUST 27

REF: STATE 211696

SUMMARY: AFTER SEVERAL HARD SLUGGING CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, WE HAVE NOW GONE AHEAD AND CALLED FOR MAC MEETING FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, ON BASIS FURTHER AUTHORIZATION TO REITERATE IN SAME TERMS CALL FOR PUNISHMENT MADE IN AUGUST 25 MAC MEETING. PRESIDENT PARK HAD MADE THIS REITERATION THE CONDITION FOR HIS AGREEMENT TO CALL MAC MEETING, WHILE BEING FURTHER CONCERNED ABOUT "HASTE" OF OUR ACTION. ADDITIONALLY TWO SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER CHANGES IN OPENING STATEMENT ARE SET FORTH BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. I MET WITH FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN TWICE ON AUGUST 26 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED APPROACH CONTAINED REFTEL, INCLUDING CALL FOR AUGUST 27 MAC MEETING.

2. IN FIRST MEETING I REVIEWED REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS, GAVE FONMIN COPY PROPOSED SENIOR MAC REPRESENTATIVES' STATEMENT AND TOLD PAK THAT WITH ROKG CONCURRENCE WE PLANNED TO CALL MAC MEETING FOR AUGUST 27. PAK SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING PRESIDENT
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IMMEDIATELY AND WOULD GET BACK TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I

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PRESSED HARD FOR QUICK CONCURRENCE, EXPLAINING ADVANTAGES OUR POSITION.

3. LATER IN DAY FONMIN CALLED ME IN AFTER LONG TALK WITH PRESIDENT PARK. PARK HAD RAISED THREE POINTS. FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT WAS PRESIDENT'S DESIRE THAT WE INCLUDE CALL FOR PUNISHMENT OF KPA OFFENDERS IN OUR STATEMENT AT PROPOSED MAC MEETING. PRESIDENT, FONMIN SAID, HAD DWELT AT LENGTH ON THIS POINT (APPARENTLY WITH SOME HEAT). HE URGED AS MATTER OF TACTICS WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THIS SUBJECT SO QUICKLY, EVEN IF WE DROP IT AT LATER STAGE. FONMIN THEN CONVEYED SECOND AND CLOSELY-RELATED POINT PRESIDENT HAD MADE TO HIM: WHY DID WE HAVE TO RUSH SO QUICKLY TO MAC MEETING?: COULDN'T IT BE DELAYED FOR DAY OR TWO? FONMIN MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IF WE ACCEPT PUNISHMENT POINT PRESIDENT WOULD GO ALONG WITH AUGUST 27 DATE. PRESIDENT PAK'S THIRD POINT, SAID FONMIN, WAS QUESTION WHETHER ALL FOUR KPA GUARD POSTS ON OUR SIDE OF MDL IN JSA WOULD BE REMOVED AND FURTHER SUGGESTION THAT WE IN FACT INSIST ON THIS.

4. IN RESPONSE, I TOLD PAK I WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONVEY TO WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR INCLUSION PUNISHMENT POINT IN OUR STATEMENT, AND I ASSURED HIM THAT IT WOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST LEVEL CONSIDERATION. AT SAME TIME I PULLED OUT ALL STOPS IN URGING THAT HE GIVE ME CONCURRENCE TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH CALL FOR MAC MEETING TOMORROW, LEAVING TO US FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE CALL FOR PUNISHMENT. I CAME DOWN HARD ON RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF CURRENT KPA POSITION AND STRENGTH OUR OWN AND DESIRABILITY CAPITALIZING ON THIS. PARK WAS NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE GO AHEAD. HOWEVER, WE LEFT IT THAT HE WOULD SEEK PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT FOR US TO PROCEED WITH CALL FOR MEETING ON BASIS MY ASSURANCE PRESIDENT'S PUNISHMENT SUGGESTION WOULD BE GIVEN MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. AT SAME TIME, I UNDERTOOK TO PUT PUNISHMENT QUESTION TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY.

5. IN SIMILAR VEIN, DEFENSE MINISTER SUH CALLED IN GENERAL STILWELL TO SET FORTH ROKG POSITION AS ABOVE.

6. ON BASISFURTHER TELEPHONIC AUTHORIZATION, I INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE ACCEPTED PRESIDENT PARK'S PROPOSAL ON
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REITERATION OF PUNISHMENT CALL AND WOULD RESTATE THIS EXACTLY AS WE HAD SET FORTH IN OPENING STATEMENT OF AUGUST 25 MEETING. ON THIS BASIS, I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH CALL FOR MAC MEETING TOMORROW, AUGUST 27, LEAVING HIM NO ROOM TO RAISE ANY FURTHER OBJECTIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY INSTITUTED REQUEST FOR MAC MEETING FOR 1700 AUGUST 27.

7. WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT'S QUERY ON NUMBER OF GUARD POSTS,

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I ASSURED FONMIN THAT WE INTENDED TO CALL FOR REMOVAL OF ALL FOUR KPA GUARD POSTS ON OUR SIDE OF JSA. THIS SATISFIED THIS QUESTION. (COMMENT: IN FACT THERE ARE FOUR KPA GUARD POSTS ON OUR SIDE MDL AND PROPOSED STATEMENT REFTEL SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO REFLECT THIS BY DROPPING WORD "TWO" BEFORE "GUARD POSTS" IN PARA TWO PROPOSED STATEMENT.)

8. IN ADDITION TO PUNISHMENT QUESTION RAISED BY PRESIDENT PARK, OUR OWN ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED STATEMENT RAISES TWO OTHER QUESTIONS TO WHICH WE WOULD LIKE IMMEDIATE ANSWERS:

A. IN ORDER TO BE CONSISTENT WITH PAST PRESENTATIONS SHOULD TERM, "ASSURANCES", REITERATED IN THE OPENING SENTENCE BE SPELLED OUT IN STATEMENT TO INCLUDE SPECIFICALLY SAFETY, FREEDOM OF ACTIVITY AND NO PHYSICAL CONTACT? WE RECOMMEND THIS.

B. THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT SETS FORTH THE PARAMETERS FOR SECRETARY-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS, ASSUMING WE GET TO THAT POINT. THE SECOND PARAMETER - SUBPARAGRAPH (B) DEALING WITH FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT - GIVES THOSE ON THE SCENE REAL PROBLEMS. NON-SECURITY PERSONNEL INCLUDE OUR MAC ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, WORK PARTIES, PRESS AND VISITORS - AND, OF COURSE, EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH NNSC. OUR ONLY ACCESS TO THE JSA IS FROM THE SOUTH; ALL OUR INSTALLATIONS ARE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MDL; ALL OUR VISITORS REMAIN ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MDL; AND, THEREFORE, IF SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE RESTRICTED TO THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE MDL WE WOULD AVE NO PERSONNEL NORTH OF THE MDL. THE ONLY PERSONNEL WHO NOW GO NORTH OF THE MDL ARE THE SECURITY PERSONNEL AND THEREFORE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT APPLIES, PRACTICALLY, ONLY TO THEM. CONVERSELY, THE SECOND PARAMETER (FREEDOM OF ACTIVITY FOR NON-SECURITY PERSONNEL) WOULD STILL PERMIT ALL KPA WORK PARTIES (OSTENSIBLY WITHOUT SECURITY PERSONNEL) TO TRANSIT OUR AREA VIA THE "BRIDGE OF
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NO RETURN." AS YOU KNOW, IF THERE WERE ANY KIND OF ALTERCATION, THE KPA WOULD BE ACTING ONLY IN SELF DEFENSE. THEREFORE, FROM THE UNC POINT OF VIEW, ADOPTION OF THE MDL AS THE RESTRAINING LINE FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL MAKES THE CONTINUED PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT A NON-SEQUITUR. WE BELIEVE ALL THIS ADDS UP TO THE POINT THAT WE MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED NOT TO MAKE THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT PRINCIPLE ONE OF THE SECRETARY'S CONFERENCE PARAMETERS. IN LIGHT ABOVE, WE SHOULD DELETE BOTH PARAMETERS AND END THAT PARAGRAPH WITH THE WORDS "SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS."

ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PARAS SEVEN AND EIGHT A AND B.
SNEIDER

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